# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2539
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
BAN ON BLOOD DONATION
JAI PRAKASH

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Delhi High Court while disposing of a public interest litigation have asked the Government to reconsider the ban imposed on blood donation by various people;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the directions issued on April 5, 1999 on the issue;

(c) if so, by when the necessary notification is likely to be issued; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): Yes, Sir. The Delhi High Court while dismissing a public interest litigation have asked the Government to reconsider restrictions on Blood Donations by high risk groups.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Blood Donations are not accepted from known high risk groups like prison inmates, injecting drug users, etc. This is because it is an established scientific fact that these groups have higher levels of HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases and high risk behavior than the general population. Mere testing of donated blood will not address the issue of `window period`. To ensure that safe blood is provided to all in need, it is necessary to have strict donor selection criteria. It is for this reason that there is no proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules.